Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 AGR-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SPC-03 STR-08 TRSE-00 CIEP-02

OMB-01 SIL-01 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 L-03 DRC-01 /104 W

R 262353Z OCT 73 ZDK FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8608

UNCLAS MEXICO 8091

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EGEN, MX

SUBJ: PRICE OF MEXICAN TEXTILES TO RISE

REF: MEXICO 7348; MEXICO 7269

1. IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING GENERAL AGREEMENT REACHED SEPTEMBER 25 (SEE MEXICO 7269, OWNERS OF TEXTILE AND APPAREL FACTORIES STATED THAT THEY WERE UNABLE TO GRANT 20 PERCENT WAGE RISE FOR ORGANIZED WORKERS. THEY ALLEGED THAT HIGHLY LABOR INTENSIVE TEXTILE INDUSTRY OPERATING WITH MINIMUM PROFITS. FOR THEIR PART, 95 MILLION UNIONIZED WORKERS IN TEXTILE INDUSTRY THREATENED STRIKE UNLESS 20 PERCENT INCREASE GRANTED IMMEDIATELY. MANAGEMENT FINALLY CAPITULATED OCTOBER 11 TO UNION DEMAND BUT JESUS GARCIA, PRESIDENT NATIONAL TEXTILE CHAMBER, MADE IT CLEAR THAT INCREASED WAGES WOULD BE FULLY PASSED ON TO CONSUMERS DESPITE GOM APPEAL TO INDUSTRIALISTS TO ABSORB ADDITIONAL LABOR COSTS. HE INDICATED THAT PRICES WOULD RISE BY AT LEAST 40 PERCENT AS RESULT OF WAGE HIKES BUT DID NOT EXPLAIN WHY INCREASE WOULD BE SO MARKED.

2. PRESIDENT PUEBLA/TLAXCALA TEXTILE CHAMBER, ING. VILLA ESCALERA, ECHOED WARNING OF THIS MEXICO CITY COUNTERPART REGARDING PRICES. HE WENT ON TO PREDICT THAT MEXICAN TEXTILE EXPORTS WOULD BE SERIOUSLY HURT BY HIGHER PRICES MANUFACTURERS WOULD NOW BE FORCED TO CHARGE. MOREOVER HE INDICATED THAT MEXICAN TEXTILE EXPORTERS MIGHT HAVE TO RENEGE ON OUTSTANDING UNCLASSIFIED

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CONTRACTS AND INSIST ON RENEGOTIATION AT HIGHER PRICES. HE SAID

GOM WAS WHOLLY TO BLAME FOR THIS DEVELOPMENT.

3. COMMENT: DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE SHOULD ANTICIPATED COMPLAINTS FROM US IMPORTERS OF MEXICAN TEXTILES IF INDUSTRY, IN FACT, MAKES GOOD ON THREAT TO RENEGE ON CONTRACTS. MCBRIDE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
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Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

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TAGS: EGEN, MX To: STATE

Type: TE

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